

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01 DRC-01 /087 W

----- 113451

R 131720Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1803

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS ROME 12513

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TSPA, IT

SUBJ: SPACE PROJECTS FINANCING

REF: ROME 708

DEPT. PASS NASA; PARIS FOR NASA/REP

1. MORE THAN TWO MONTHS AFTER CIPE (INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC PLANNING) CONSIDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE PROGRAMS, CIPE FINALLY TOOK UP NATIONAL SPACE PROGRAMS, SIRIO, SAN MARCO AND TERRA IN ITS MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9. FOLLOWING FUNDING WAS APPROVED FOR 1973 THROUGH 1976. PROJECT SIRIO - 18 BILLION LIRE (ABOUT \$30 MILLION) SAN MARCO - 6.6. BILLION LIRE (ABOUT \$11 MILLION) NATIONAL SPACE LABORATORIS - 10 BILLION LIRE (ABOUT \$16.6 MILLION)

2. CIPE DELIBERATION CALLED FOR SIRIO SATELLITE TO BE LAUNCHED NO LATER THAN JULY 1975. FUNDS APPROVED FOR BOTH SIRIO AND NATIONAL SPACE LABORATORIES WERE SAME AN ORIGINAL SUMS APPROVED BY CIPE MEETING HELD LAST JANUARY (SEE REFTEL) UNDER OLD GOVERNMENT. AFTER RUMOR GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED, MINISTER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FELT THAT OLD COMMITMENTS (CIPE'S JANUARY MEETING) SHOULD BE RECONFIRMED BY NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. FUNDS FOR SAN MARCO GO FOR UPKEEP OF SAN MARCO RANGE AND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SAN MARCO D.

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4. THE FINANCING APPROVED BY CIPE REQUIRES PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. SPACE OFFICIALS ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL, BUT TIMING IS UNCERTAIN.

5. FUNDING FOR TELESPAZIO'S TERRA PROJECT - CONSTRUCTION OF A GROUND STATION TO RECEIVE ERTS DATA - WAS NOT APPROVED BY CIPE DUE TO DESIRE TO KEEP DOWN GOVERNMENT SPENDING. THERE IS STILL VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT TERRA PROJECT WILL BE REALIZED SINCE TELESPAZIO HAS OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR FUNDING PROJECT.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPACE PROGRAMS, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME12513
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731137/aaaabbai.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SCI
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 708
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Feb-2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <15 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPACE PROJECTS FINANCING
TAGS: TSPA, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005